

## Abstract

**Title:** Division 4 Symposia at the 18th World Congress of Soil Science

**Organizers:** Lee Sommers (Colorado State University) and Larry Wilding (Texas A&M University), Co-chairs, Organizing Committee for 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science  
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**Description of applicant:** Soil Science Society of America, 501c3 Scientific Society

**Project Period:** May 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006. Conference date: July 9-15, 2006 in Philadelphia. Funds would be expended beginning June 1, 2006. Conference proceedings and publications will be available July 9, 2006.

**Project Cost:** \$25,000

**Project Summary:** The International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) organizes the World Congress of Soil Science each four years. The adhering member for the USA to the IUSS is the National Research Council/National Academy of Science and their invitation to host the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science was accepted by the IUSS at the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress held in Montpellier, France. Organizational and administrative support is provided by the Soil Science Society of America, Madison, WI. The USA has not hosted the World Congress since 1966 when it was held in Madison, WI. The 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, July 9-15, 2006. The theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> WCSS is "Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age". The 18<sup>th</sup> WCSS will include symposia, poster sessions, scientific and technical exhibitions, and working sessions of the IUSS Divisions, Commissions, Working Groups and Standing Committees.

The program has been planned by a select group of international soil scientists. The program is subdivided into 83 symposia involving oral and poster sessions. Approximately 2,700 abstracts have been accepted for the WCSS program. One goal of the organizers was to emphasize quality poster papers and to allow poster authors an opportunity to engage in discussion of their paper. About one half of the symposia will also hold a 'poster theater' session where poster authors will have the opportunity to discuss their work. Each participant will receive a CD-ROM with the complete text of all abstracts; a paper copy is available for an additional fee. In addition each participant will receive a copy of a soft cover, 8-1/2" x 11", 4-color publication entitled 'Soils, Society and the Environment'.

This grant will support symposia conducted in Division 4 of the International Union of Soil Sciences. The mission of Division 4 is to serve as an international platform that promotes discussions and cooperative actions between soil scientists, our colleagues in other scientific disciplines, policy-makers, and concerned citizens on the role of soils in sustaining society and the environment. The Division 4 comprises four Commissions: 4.1 Soils and the environment; 4.2 Soils, food security, and human health; 4.3 Soils and land use change; 4.4 Soil education and public awareness; and 4.5 History, philosophy, and sociology of soil science.